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SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: 1987 ANNUAL
TERRORISM REPORT

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11. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

12. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS AND TO RECOGNIZE THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. CHINA ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH THE PALESTINIAN OPPOSITION IN 1963 EVEN BEFORE IT HAD BEGUN ITS ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL. ON MARCH 22, 1965, A PLO DELEGATION VISITING CHINA SIGNED A JOINT STATEMENT WITH THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (WHICH COMES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS), IN WHICH BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE PLO WOULD ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN BEIJING IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN MUTUAL COOPERATION. IN MAY OF THE SAME YEAR, A PLO OFFICE ENJOYING DIPLOMATIC STATUS WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED IN BEIJING.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YASSIR ARAFAT VISITED CHINA IN 1964, 1970, 1981 AND 1984; AND IN MAY 1985, HE LED A JOINT PLO-JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO CHINA. OTHER PALESTINIAN LEADERS, INCLUDING THE PFLP'S GEORGE HABASH, THE DFLP'S NAYIF HAWATMEH, AND THE PLO'S FARUQ QADDUMI HAVE ALSO MADE VISITS TO CHINA. IN AN APRIL 24, 1986, MEETING WITH QADDUMI, FOR EXAMPLE, THEN GENERAL SECRETARY HU YAOBANG CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR ITS "BIAS TOWARD ISRAEL AND IGNORING THE REASONABLE DEMANDS OF THE PALESTINIANS." HU ADDED THAT THE "CHINESE PEOPLE WILL STAND BY THE PALESTINIANS TILL THEIR FINAL VICTORY, RESOLUTELY SUPPORT THE PLO, THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS, AND FIRMLY DEMAND THE RESTORATION OF ALL THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS."

CHINESE LEADERS HAVE ALSO MET WITH PALESTINIAN LEADERS ON VISITS OVERSEAS. DURING A 1986 VISIT TO TUNISIA, THEN PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG MET WITH YASSIR ARAFAT ON JULY 25 IN TUNIS AND REITERATED SUPPORT FOR THE PLO AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ZHAO ALSO CALLED FOR ARAB AND INTERNAL PLO UNITY AND ADVISED ARAFAT TO PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

ACCORDING TO THE MFA'S "GENERAL REVIEW OF CHINA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS" (ZHONGGUO WAIJIAO GAILAN, 1987), CHINA HAS MANY TIMES SINCE 1964 INVITED PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS, MASS ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS AND DELEGATIONS TO VISIT CHINA AND HAS FURTHERMORE PROVIDED THE PLO AND PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS WITH WEAPONS, MONEY, MEDICINE, MATERIAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

THE MFA DIPLOMATIC LIST SHOWS FOUR PLO REPRESENTATIVES WORKING AT THE PLO MISSION IN BEIJING, ALL OF WHOM APPARENTLY HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, INCLUDING IMMUNITY AND THE USE OF THE POUCH. THE PLO MISSION REGULARLY DISTRIBUTES NEWS BULLETINS OF THE PLO NEWS ORGANIZATION Wafa THROUGHOUT THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.

LORD